AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

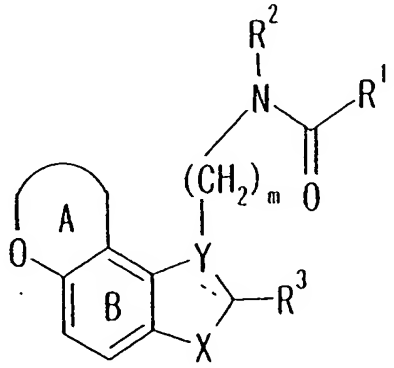
1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously presented) A percutaneous absorption preparation comprising (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno [5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]acetamide, lauric diethanolamide, and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols.

8-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously presented) A percutaneous absorption preparation comprising (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]acetamide, isopropyl myristate, polyethylene glycol and lauric diethanolamide.

21. (Previously presented) A percutaneous absorption preparation comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, lauric diethanolamide and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R^1 represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group;

R^2 represents a hydrogen atom;

R^3 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group;

X represents CHR^4, NR^4 or O in which R^4 represents a hydrogen atom;

Y represents C or CH;

represents a single bond or a double bond;

ring A represents a 5- membered oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;

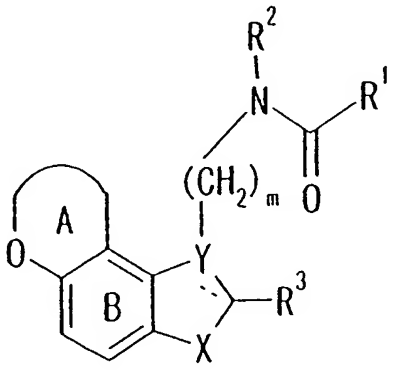
ring B represents a benzene ring; and

m represents an integer of 1 to 4;

or a salt thereof, wherein the percutaneous absorption preparation is a skin plaster or a skin patch which is applied and/or attached to the skin.

22-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously presented) A percutaneous absorption preparation comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, lauric diethanolamide and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



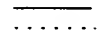
wherein, R^1 represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group;

R^2 represents a hydrogen atom;

R^3 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group;

X represents CHR^4, NR^4 or O in which R^4 represents a hydrogen atom;

Y represents C or CH;


represents a single bond or a double bond;

ring A represents a 5- membered oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;

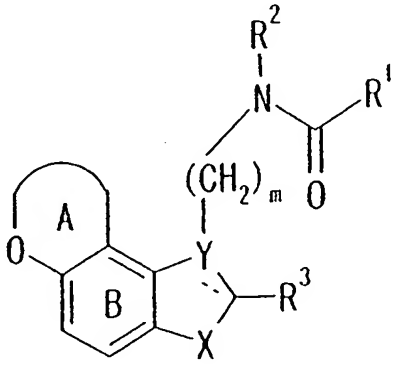
ring B represents a benzene ring; and

m represents an integer of 1 to 4;

or a salt thereof, wherein the percutaneous absorption preparation is contained in a skin contact member comprising silicon dioxide.

34-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently amended) A method of treating diseases related to melatonin, which comprises administering to a patient ~~with a melatonin related disease~~ in need thereof a percutaneous absorption preparation comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, lauric diethanolamide and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R^1 represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group;

R^2 represents a hydrogen atom;

R^3 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group;

X represents CHR^4, NR^4 or O in which R^4 represents a hydrogen atom;

Y represents C or CH;


represents a single bond or a double bond;

ring A represents a 5- membered oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;

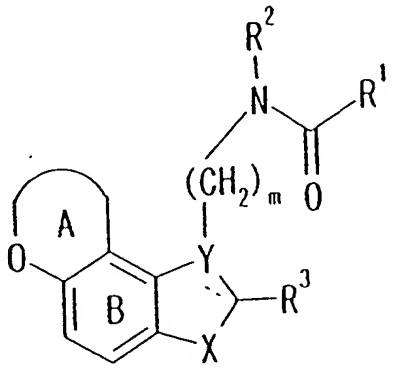
ring B represents a benzene ring; and

m represents an integer of 1 to 4;

or a salt thereof[[.]]; and

further wherein said melatonin related disease is selected from the group consisting of biological rhythm disorders and somnipathy.

40. (Currently amended) A method for percutaneous absorption of a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, which comprises administering to a patient with a melatonin related disease a percutaneous absorption preparation comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, lauric diethanolamide and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R^1 represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group;

R^2 represents a hydrogen atom;

R^3 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group;

X represents CHR^4, NR^4 or O in which R^4 represents a hydrogen atom;

Y represents C or CH;

 represents a single bond or a double bond;

ring A represents a 5- membered oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;

ring B represents a benzene ring; and

m represents an integer of 1 to 4;

or a salt thereof[[.]]; and

further wherein said melatonin related disease is selected from the group consisting of biological rhythm disorders and somnipathy.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the percutaneous absorption preparation is affixed between about 6 hours before bedtime to just before bedtime.

43. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 21, wherein X represents CHR^4 in which R^4 represents a hydrogen atom.

44-46. (Cancelled)

47. (Previously presented) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 33, wherein the compound is (S)-N-[2-(1, 6, 7, 8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno-[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]propionamide.

48. (Previously presented) The method of treating diseases related to melotonin according to claim 39, wherein the compound is (S)-N-[2-(1, 6, 7, 8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno-[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]propionamide.

49. (Previously presented) The method of percutaneous absorption of a compound according to claim 40, wherein the compound is (S)-N-[2-(1, 6, 7, 8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno-[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]propionamide.